

IMAM IS THE QUEEN BEE OF A SWARM /FROM 'ALI TO MAHDI ٤

'ALÎ IBN ABÎ JÂLIB, AMÎR AL-MU'MINÎN
(٤)

NAHJU'L-BALÂGAH / THE PEAK OF ELOQUENCE

Sayings and hutbas, including the answers to the questions and Maximas

1. **Hadith/tradition**, attributed to the Leader of the faithful, Amir al-Mumineen-in, peace upon him, says: "When the situation is like this, then gets up the ya'sûb¹, and

¹ = the leader. "Ya'sûb" is the name for the queen-bee, and the saying of Amir al-Mumineen reads: «*fa idhâ kânâ dhâlika daraba ya'sûb-u'd-dîn bî dhanabihî*». Word "daraba", meaning to kick, hit, etc.; "ya'sûb u'd-din" means "the head of religion and Sharia" and "dhanab" means: tail end, supporter or follower.

In this hadith "ya'sûb-u'ddîn" refers to the present Imaam (al-Imam al-Mahdi), although this title was given by the Holy Prophet especially to Amir al-Mumineen, in the words "O 'Ali, you are the ya'sûb (bead) of the faithful, while the the wealth is ya'sûb of hypocrites ". (al-Isti`ab, Vol 4, p 1744; Usd al-Ghabah, Vol.5, p.287; al-Isaba, Vol.4, p.171 AR-Riyad an-Nadir, vol.2, p .155; Mayma 'az-Zawa'id, Vol.9, p.102; Ibn Abî'l-Hadid, vol.1, p 12; Vol.19, p.224)

The Holy Prophet said to "Ali also this: "You're ya'sûb / queen bee of religion." (Ar-Riyad an-Nadirah, vol.2, page 177; The Al-'arus, vol.1, p.381; Ibn Abî'l-Hadid, vol.1, p 12; Vol.19, p. 22

Also the Holy Prophet said to 'Alî: You are the ya'sûb of the religion. (ar-Riyad an-nadirah, vol.2, p. 177; Taj al-'arus, vol.1, p.381; Ibn Abî'l-Hadîd, vol.1, p. 12; vol.19, p.224) Also the Holy Prophet said to 'Alî: You are the ya'sûb of the Muslims (Yanabi' al-mawaddah, al-Qunduzî, p.62) Again the Holy Prophet said: You are the ya'sûb of the Quraysh (al-Maqasid al-hasanah, as-Sakhawi, p.94). Therefore, the reason for giving the Imam this name is that just as the queen bee is pure alone and in the society of other bees, and she collects her nectar from the blossoms and flowers keeping away from pollution, in the same way the present Imam is free from all pollutions and is perfectly clean and pure. This saying has been interpreted in several ways:

people gather around him as the bits of a rainy cloud gather during the autumn."

2. **Khutba 316:** Amir al-Mumineen, peace be upon him! said: I am the ya'sûb (queen bee, the leader) believers, and follow wealth is the ya'sûb (the leader) of the sinful. As-Sayyid AR-Radi says, it means: "The faithful follow me while follow corrupt follow wealth, just as the bees follow their queen," the ya'sûb ", which is their leader.²

Nota Bene: "The queen bee is the heart and soul of the honey bee colony. She is the reason for nearly everything the rest of the colony does. The queen is the only bee without which the rest of the colony cannot survive. A good quality queen means a strong and productive hive. The queen is in the hive is always moving in the direction of the sun: in the morning it is on the east side, at noon in the central part, and in the evening in the western part of the hive". (Wiki)

Firstly, it means that "when the present Imam settles at his seat after his tour and rotation round the world people will gather around him". Secondly, it means that "when the Imam moves about on the earth along with his friends and associates..." In this case the word "daraba" would mean moving about and the word "dhanab" would mean helpers and associates. Thirdly, it means that "when the Imam rises with a sword in hand." In this case the word "dhanab" would mean stinging by the bee. Fourthly, it means that "when the Imam rises for the propagation of true faith with full fervour. . ." In this case the sentence is suggestive of the state of anger and the posture for attack.

²We have already explained the meaning of the word "ya'sûb" in the foot-note of saying No.262-I, and pointed out that this title was given to Amir al-mu'minin by the Holy Prophet himself and we quoted some of his different utterances on this subject. Here we quote one of the traditions in which this title appears. It is narrated by Abu Layla al-Ghifari, Abu Dharr, Salman, Ibn 'Abbas and Hudhayfah ibn al-Yaman that the Holy Prophet used to say: Soon after my death there will be discord. When it occurs, adhere to 'Ali ibn Abi Talib since he will be the first person to see me and the first person to shake hands with me on the Day of Judgement. He is the greatest man of truth (as-siddiq al-akbar), and he is the discriminator (faruq) from among this ummah who discriminates between right and wrong, and he is the ya'sub (leader) of the believers while wealth is the ya'sub of the hypocrites."